



STANDARD DEVIATION TASK TRIAL HSC RESULTS – HOW DID YOU GO?

You have sat the Trial HSC and here are the results.

English – 72; Maths – 68; Economics – 54; Physics – 48; RE – 50

COMMENT: _____

Now, here's those same results but with their respective means.

English – 72 $\bar{x} = 78$; Maths – 68 $\bar{x} = 61$; Economics – 54 $\bar{x} = 68$;

Physics – 48 $\bar{x} = 51$; RE – 50 $\bar{x} = 61$

COMMENT: _____

To look at results from different data sets and try to compare them is blatant abuse of statistics.

Even comparing them with their respective means is abuse.

If you want to honestly compare results from different data sets, one method is to find the number of deviations the score deviates from the mean. This will allow you to compare the score in relation to the whole population and also allows you to compare results from different sets of data.



Complete the table:

SUBJECT	SCORE	MEAN	$x - \bar{x}$	σ	DEVIATION $(x - \bar{x}) \div \sigma$
ENGLISH	72	78		15	
MATHS	68	61		6	
ECONOMICS	54	68		12	
PHYSICS	48	51		8	
RE	50	61		7	

Place the subjects on the deviation line below to compare the results and comment.

